

JERRY KELLY

Q. All right, Jerry, just take us through, you know, kind of what's been going on this week and just the overall mission and goal for you hosting this tournament in Tucson.

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, it's a big week as you know. Exact Sciences maker Cologuard puts this tournament on and basically we're trying to get the word out for early screening.

It's such a huge difference in survival rates when you catch this disease early, it's the second leading cancer killer in the United States, men and women. Right now the age is at 45 and there is no excuse for anybody not to get screened at 45, whether. It's family history or not, it's obviously very prevalent as the second leading killer.

I've lost two really good friends. Played with Rob Andringa, one of my childhood friends, he won the NCAA Championship in hockey. He was announcing at the time and in the prime of his life. Played with him in the pro-am in March of '20 and we lost him in May of '20. That's how quick. And he was 48 years old.

And knowing me and Kevin Conroy, the CEO of Exact Sciences, obviously if the age would have been 45 at that point, he would have gotten screened immediately when he turned 45, knowing us and what we like to put out as a message, yet it was 50 at that point. If it was 45, we would still have him with us.

In '21 I played with Mike Mancini and we lost him in '22. Right before he passed he married Carol Motycka and she's a Stage IV colon cancer survivor, which we have almost 200 survivors with us this week and those are the stories that we keep wanting to get to. We don't want those cautionary tails. Unfortunately it takes some people the tough messages before they get the picture and get smacked around enough to realize, oh, well, I'm over 45, maybe I should. Well, yes, you should.

But these survivors, the stories that they tell, the message that they spread, just they give so much of themselves because they don't want anybody else to go through what they've gone through, And all the friends that they've lost.

It's incredible. I mean, this tournament is a call on Congress, go to Washington, D.C. and the entire -- the infield, the infield of the United States of America, the great lawn, you know, they fill it with blue flags and that's when you really get the idea. All those blue flags are a life that's been taken by this disease. Yeah, they're pretty packed. We just don't want to see it.

The players at this golf tournament have taken on such a role. I appreciate them so much. I mean, they're wearing the ribbons, I'm wearing a ribbon for Rob and a ribbon

for Mike, I've got the shoes on from Rob, 21 is his hockey number. I wasn't very graceful there, sorry.

But yes, the players, the company, the survivors, the advocates, the volunteers, this is not just your normal golf tournament, this is a tournament for awareness and it's a tournament for early screening and a tournament to help save lives. That's a big bite right there thinking a golf tournament saving lives, but I truly believe it.

Q. How do you compartmentalize everything this week? You finished in the top-5 twice at this event. I know you're trying to win on top of everything else.

JERRY KELLY: I don't, I don't compartmentalize at all. I'm in tears often out there during this tournament. I don't know, I'm going to be wearing the ribbons. But Do It Like Mike for Mike Mancini and this, you know, I don't know if I can wear that while I play, but I really want to.

You know, those feelings are what I've kind of relied on in my career of never giving up, but I'm never going to stop because of them. That's the same thing in golf, I'm never going to stop trying as hard as I can in golf. Those guys instilled some of that even more in me with the message that they were putting out when their outlook was not very good.

So yeah, it's golf, but again it means so much more this year and I'm just, I'm grateful to be given the love and the energy from these people that are here. I want to soak it all up. I don't want to separate myself and turn into a robot golfer. I just, I love them all for being here.

Q. The biggest story on the tour as a whole right now is Bernhard having tied Hale Irwin. Obviously his next win will be the record. What impresses you the most about what he's been able to accomplish?

JERRY KELLY: I mean, just consistency at such an old age. (Laughs.) But really I'm 50 -- oh, my goodness, did I turn 57? No, I turned 56. It hurts, it hurts to get up in the morning. It's constant. For him to do it at 65. And I'm sorry, he puts more work in than I do. I can't imagine that because I think I put in a pretty darn good body of work from week to week, especially opening that wine, really, man, it's work.

No, it's just really impressive. He's the first one at the golf course and he's the last one to leave Monday through Sunday. He's used to leaving last because he's usually having a champagne toast as the tournament champion as well.

You know, I had to have a sponsor to get into Paradise Valley Country Club and Hale Irwin was my sponsor. He was the last one I saw before I went to Naples. I had the front row seat to Bernhard's tying. I have not seen Hale since then, but I will say, and I've told Bernie this as well, I am going to try as hard as I can not to let him get that 46th. But we all know there's really no stopping that man, he is going to keep going.

I'm proud to call him a friend and I want to grab onto those coattails and follow him around and try to do what he's doing.

Q. That number, 45, you've won 11 times, I think you've won every year since you've been on the tour or something close to it. You would have to win about 3.5 times a year over the next 10 to get up there. Is that just a crazy number to think about?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, yeah, I'm not -- I don't think I'm going there. I tell you what, I tee it up every single week trying to get there, no question. I think he won seven or eight one year. If you can have a year like that, which is pie in the sky, shoot the moon, all those ideas, then it starts becoming in the realm. It's such a long way to go. I'm trying, I think I'm trying to get 13. Am I on 12?

Q. I think 11.

JERRY KELLY: I think you might be wrong, not sure. I think I'm 12. Can we get a confirmation of that?

Q. We can right now.

JERRY KELLY: Interested now, pretty sure I'm going for 13.

Q. Have you seen the SNL skit about Cologuard?

JERRY KELLY: Unleash, baby. Unleash. I am definitely going to unleash it on the first tee, I am going to let that thing go, absolutely.

No, you know, that is incredible awareness. The messaging that they got across during that skit was spot on, it was incredible. I think they did a fantastic job of mixing actual reality with the skit. It was funny, it was pretty solid. The message, their messaging was really good, it was pretty cool. I mean, yeah, take that one. There's a lot of quotes in there I might be using. Not here (Laughs.)

Q. The one thing, just last question from me, you talk about Rob and you talk about Mike. What does it mean having their families out here this week? I know that's a lot of emotion going through it, but just to have their support and their backing for you using their platform to raise awareness?

JERRY KELLY: Yeah, well, I mean, Doc and Phyllis Andringa are Rob's parents and they were parents to all of us when we were kids in the neighborhood. Two of the best people that I've ever known. I'm so glad that Rob found Christ because again, she's just an incredible individual. The kids that those two produced are fantastic. That family is just, there's so much love in that familiar. And, I mean, you can see that.

But the way Rob was, and I can see Doc Andringa, they're so genuine and they mean

everything they say and they're so happy for you. You just want to be around them, you want to soak it up.

Mike Mancini was like that. When he married Carol, she's a little ball of life right there, too. And Mike was like that as well. It's tough, these tales of losing the ones we've loved, but we have to share those stories.

And the most incredible thing is those going through it are sharing it for others. They know what's in store for them, yet they still selflessly tell other people so that this doesn't have to happen to them.

It's important to me that I'm able to be here with Exact Sciences, but these families, what they're doing in bringing up tough memories in order so people don't have to go through those tough memories at all.